GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3949
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2002
IMPORT OF PALMOLEIN OIL
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether people are experiencing hardships as there is shortage of palmolein oil in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from which this oil is imported and the quantity of palmolein oil imported during each of the last three years with prices thereof;

(c) whether the countries from which palmolein oil is imported have increased the price of palmolein oil inordinately;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have been negotiating with those countries to reducethe prices so that the internal consumption of this cheap cooking medium is met; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make the country self-sufficient in the production of palmolein oil?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (S SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a)&(b): The Government, with a view to ensure availability of edible oils in thedomestic market, has allowed import of edible oils including palmolein oil under Open General License(OGL).As per information available from industry sources, the import of RBD Palmolein, Crude Palm Oil & Crude Oleim in last three Oil Years (November- October) has been of the following Order:

Oil Years	RBD Palmolein	Crude Palmolein	Crude Oleim
1998-99	26,76,712	-	-
1999-2000	22,13,777	8,28,359	-
2000-2001	15,16,688	14,04,723	32,877

During the current oil year from November, 2001 to June, 2002 the quantity imported is reported to be of the following order:

RBD Palmolein	1,18,895
Crude Palm Oil	13,42,324
Crude Oleim	4,35,657

(c)&(d): During the last three months prices of almost all the edible oils including Palmolein has risen by 14 to 22% in the international market.

(e): The cultivation of Oil Palm, the source material, for Palm Oil and thus palmolein is under developmental stage.For development of Oil Palm the Government have launched Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP).